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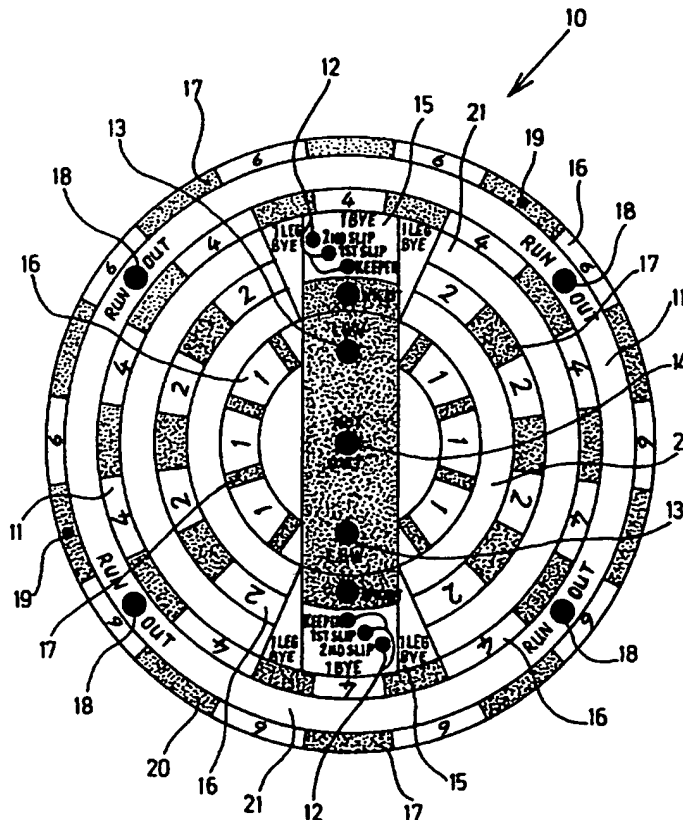
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(56) Documents Cited
GB 2127701 A GB 2034590 A GB 0706462 A
US 5005842 A US 3979117 A

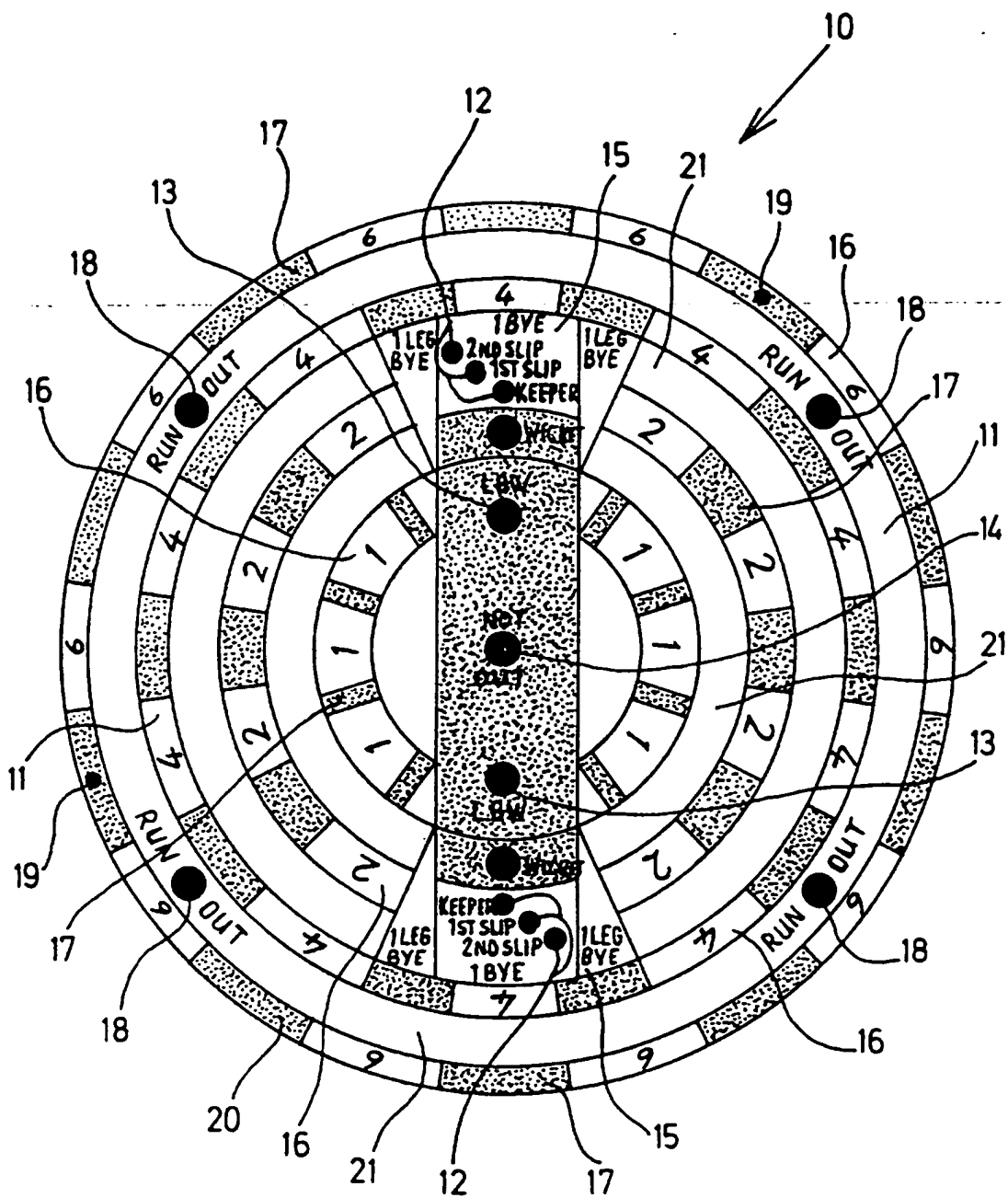
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(54) Dart board

(57) This invention relates to a dart board (10) on which a simulation of a field game like cricket or a board game like battleships can be played. The board has an operatively outer face with a plurality of target zones (11) thereon representing a range of conditions normally associated with the field game or board game played. The board is mounted to a vertical surface and darts are thrown at the target zones. The game progresses according to the target zones hit. The invention also extends to an overlay for a conventional dart board or for any board which enables a field or board game to be played thereon.



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DART BOARD

INTRODUCTION

THIS INVENTION relates to a dart board on which a variety of games can be simulated, and to an
5 overlay for a conventional dart board enabling a variety of simulated games to be played thereon.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

The game of darts, wherein players throw darts at a circular dart board affixed to a vertical surface,

is well known. A conventional dart board is divided into a plurality, usually twenty, radially extending wedges of equal surface areas. Each wedge has a numerical value from one to twenty.

5 In use, a number, usually three, darts are thrown by each player at the board. Points are allocated to the player according to the numerical value of the wedges hit by the darts. By altering the rules by which points are allocated, a variety of games
10 can be played.

To play dart games which simulate field games on a conventional dart board, the rules of the field game must be adapted to be compatible with the arrangement of wedges and numerical values of the
15 board. This has a disadvantage for the games themselves tend to become similar to each other or the rules become too complex.

In this specification, the following terms have the following meanings:

1. Dart board - includes a circular dart board and any other board which, in use, is attached to a substantially vertical surface and at which darts are thrown or fired;
2. Darts - includes conventional darts, flechettes, arrows or any other projectile which can be thrown or fired into a dart board; and
3. Games - includes field games like rugby, cricket, hockey or baseball and board games such as "battleships".

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide a dart board on which a variety of games can be simulated, and to provide an overlay for a conventional dart board enabling a variety of simulated games to be

played thereon, which at least partly alleviates the above disadvantages.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with this invention there is provided
5 a dart board comprising a board having an
operatively outer face which has a plurality of
target zones demarcated thereon, the target zones
representing a range of conditions normally
unassociated with conventional dart games which are
10 played on a conventional dart board.

There is also provided for at least some of the
target zones to be arranged concentrically around
the centre of the board and/or in wedges extending
from the centre of the board; for the board to
15 have a central region which depicts a playing
field; and for the target zones to be of
contrasting colours to adjacent target zones.

There is further provided for the target zones to
represent conditions normally associated with a
20 field game selected from the group consisting of

cricket, rugby football, football, gridiron
football, hockey and baseball. Alternatively there
is provided for the target zones to represent
conditions normally associated with a board game
5 like battleships.

The invention extends to an overlay for a
conventional dart board, the overlay being
releasably securable to the dart board and having a
plurality of target zones demarcated thereon, the
10 target zones representing a range of conditions
normally unassociated with games which are playable
on a conventional dart board.

There is also provided for at least some of the
target zones to be arranged concentrically around
15 the operative centre of the overlay; for the
overlay to have a region which depicts a playing
field; for the target zones to be of contrasting
colours to adjacent target zones.

There is further provided for the target zones to
20 represent conditions normally associated with a
field game selected from the group consisting of

cricket, rugby football, football, gridiron
football, hockey and baseball. Alternatively there
is provided for the target zones to represent
conditions normally associated with a board game
5 like battleships.

There is also provided for the overlay to have
different games represented on each of its opposite
surfaces.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 A preferred embodiment of the invention will be
described below by way of example only, and with
reference to the accompanying drawing which is an
elevational view of a dart board according to the
invention.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring to the drawing, a dart board (10)
comprises a board having a plurality of target
zones (11) demarcated thereon. The target zones
(11) represent a range of conditions associated

with a game, in this embodiment cricket, and which are normally unassociated with games which are playable on a conventional dart board.

In the embodiment illustrated, the dart board (10) is circular and is demarcated to represent a cricket pitch and it is envisaged that the board (10) and darts (not shown) can be used to simulate a game of cricket. To play the game two teams are required whereupon the game can be played in accordance with the following rules:

The captains of the teams spin a coin and the winner may elect to either bat or field. The first darts are always thrown by the fielding side. Each member of each team throws three darts during his turn as in a conventional game of darts. Preferably each team should not exceed three members so that the players can maintain their concentration between their turns.

1. Objectives

- 5 (a) The bowlers being the fielding team throw their darts in an attempt to hit one of the circles (12) demarcated as being "Wickets", "Keeper", "1st Slip" or "2nd Slip" and dismiss a batsman with each successful hit. If a bowler hits the circle demarcated as "LBW" (13) the previous "Batsman", who has just thrown his darts, is allowed to throw 1 dart
- 10 at the "Not Out" circle (14), positioned in the centre of the board. If he misses the circle the batting team loses a wicket, but if he hits the circle, the LBW appeal is effectively over-ruled.
- 15 Any dart thrown by the bowling side which strikes a "Bye" or a "Leg Bye" area (15) will be recorded as a score for the batting team.
- 20 b) The batting side has the goal of scoring as many runs as possible. This is achieved by hitting one of the target zones (16) marked with a number which denotes the number of runs

scored. The area of the target zones (16) is such that 1 run is easier to score than a 2, a 4 or a 6. If the batsman's dart strikes a "Caught" zone (17) the batting team loses a wicket. The area of the "Caught" zone (17) decreases from the centre of the board towards the outer edge. Should a bowler strike a "Run-Scoring" zone (16) or a "Caught" zone (17) the batting team will be awarded the equivalent runs or have one of their batsman re-instated.

3. Run Out

If one of the batsmen hits a "Run Out" circle (18) the batting team loses a wicket. If a bowler hits a "Run Out" circle (18) it is regarded as a wide and the batting team is awarded 1 run.

4. Rain Stops Play

The two solid dots (19) situated between one and two o'clock, and eight and nine o'clock in the outer ring indicate that play has come to an end

due to rain. An attempt to terminate the game by using this strategy is extremely hazardous for the "Rain Stops Play" dots (19) are located within "Caught" zones (17), which if hit, can cost the 5 batting team a wicket should they use this strategy to force a draw. This risk is equally great for the bowling team as a near miss of the "Rain Stops Play" circle (19) could also place them in the "Caught" zone, which will have the effect of 10 re-instating a batsman for the batting side.

5. No Man's Land

All the remaining undemarcated areas (21) represent instances where the ball is well fielded and therefore has no other consequence. The same rule 15 applies to any dart which strikes any of the lines separating the demarcated areas.

The aim of the game is for a team to score a greater number of runs than the opposing team.

It will be appreciated that cricket is but one of a 20 great many games which can be played on a dart

board. The board can, for example, represent a rugby football field and the rules can be adapted to simulate conditions encountered in the game of rugby football. The board can also be used to
5 represent a war-game scenario like battleships or the like.

The invention also extends to an overlay which is marked as for the above described dart board and which is placed, in use, over a conventional dart
10 board. In this case the overlay will have a pair of opposite sides and a different game can be represented on each side.

CLAIMS

1. A dart board comprising a board having an operatively outer face which has a plurality of target zones demarcated thereon, the target zones representing a range of conditions normally unassociated with conventional dart games which are played on a conventional dart board.
2. A dart board as claimed in claim 1 in which at least some of the target zones are arranged concentrically around the centre of the board.
3. A dart board as claimed in claim 1 in which at least some of the target zones are arranged in wedges extending from the centre of the board.
4. A dart board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the board has a central region which depicts a playing field.

5. A dart board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the target zones are of contrasting colours to adjacent target zones.
- 5 6. A dart board as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which the target zones represent conditions normally associated with a field game selected from the group consisting of cricket, rugby football,
10 football, gridiron football, hockey and baseball.
7. A dart board as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 in which the target zones represent conditions normally associated with a board
15 game like battleships.
8. A dart board substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.
9. An overlay for a conventional dart board which
20 is releasably securable to the dart board and

which has a plurality of target zones demarcated thereon, the target zones representing a range of conditions normally unassociated with games which are playable on
5 a conventional dart board.

10. An overlay as claimed in claim 9 in which at least some of the target zones are arranged concentrically around the operative centre of the overlay.
- 10 11. An overlay as claimed in claim 9 or in claim 10 in which the overlay has a region which depicts a playing field.
12. An overlay as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11 in which the target zones are of
15 contrasting colours to adjacent target zones.
13. An overlay as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 in which the target zones represent conditions normally associated with a field game selected from the group consisting of

cricket, rugby football, football, gridiron
football, hockey and baseball.

14. An overlay as claimed in any one of claims 9
to 12 in which the target zones represent
conditions normally associated with a board
game like battleships.

15. An overlay as claimed in any one of claims 9
to 14 in which the overlay has different games
represented on each of its opposite surfaces.



The Patent Office

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Application No: GB 9506704.7
Claims searched: 1 - 15

Examiner: Roger Casling
Date of search: 23 April 1996

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.O): A6S

Int CI (Ed.6): F41J

Other:

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2127701 A (KNIGHT) see page 2 line 5 et seq	1 - 5 at least
X	GB 2034590 A (STRADNET) see page 1 line 117 et seq	1,6,9,13 at least
X	GB 0706462 (SCOTT) see page 1 line 50 et seq	1 - 6 at least
X	US 5005842 (BAUER) see whole document	1, 4,6 at least
X	US 3979117 (WORSHAM) see whole document	1 - 6 at least

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

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P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.